GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:459
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF FEMALE CANDIDATES
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Jagannath Dr. M.;Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati;Yadav Shri Baleshwar;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that male gynaeocologists conduct physical examination of women applicants aspiring for recruitment in Army;

(b) if so, whether women applicants have objected to it;

(c) if so, the reason to compel women applicants to undergo such medical examination by the male gynaeocologists;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to remove the practice of medical examination of female candidates by male Gynaeocologists;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (f): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 459 FOR 2.12.2004

As far as possible, lady doctors examine female candidates, but due to availability of a limited number of lady gynaecologists, it is not always possible for lady gynaecologists to conduct the medical examination of female candidates at all stations. In such an eventuality, examination by male gynaecologist is invariably carried out in the presence of a female nurse. Only visual examination to rule out any congenital abnormality is carried out and no internal examination is conducted.

Recently, one woman applicant had objected to medical examination by a male gynaecologist.

Procedure of medical examination of female candidates has been reviewed and is being modified to ensure that in future gynaecological examination of female candidates is conducted by lady doctors.